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REA SAFETY AND JOB TRAINING SUPERVISORS' CONFERENCE VOTED HUGE SUCCESS; EVERY STATE HAVING SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED; TWO NIGHT SESSIONS ARE ADDED

After a strenuous program to which two night sessions had to be added, and which included an address by Mr. Harry Slattery, Administrator of the REA, the First National REA Safety and Job Training Supervisors' Conference, held in St. Louis October 19 to 24, was voted a huge success.

D. A. Fleming, Head of the Labor Relations and Safety Section of the REA, welcomed the delegates, announced the sessions would be informal, and asked the men to take off their coats, roll up their sleeves and let their hair down. It was to be a family affair. Opening addresses were made by M. M. Samuels, Chief of the REA Technical Standards Division, George Long and C. D. Blair, Assistant Chiefs, Cooperatives' Operations Division, R. F. Eaton, Director of First Aid and Water Safety, Midwestern Section, American Red Cross, and J. Perry Norris, Assistant State Supervisor, Trade and Industrial Education in Oklahoma.

There is no conflict between safety and economy, Mr. Samuels told the conference. Safe designs are economical in the long run, particularly in the REA. Systems can afford to spend much more money to make things safe, and it would pay them to spend more money to operate them safely. The idea of safety, he added, should be injected into the blood, and ought to be acquired as an instinct.

Included in the program were 18 hours of job instructor training. These sessions were conducted by Mr. C. T. Cardwell, Assistant District Representative, Training Within Industry



Branch, War Manpower Commission. Mr. Cardwell's meetings were regarded as highly valuable. His work was additionally appreciated because of the difficulty of having to conduct his sessions between other parts of the program.

The address by Professor E. W. Lehmann, Head of the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Illinois, was another feature. Professor Lehmann stressed the need of extending the accident prevention program into the farm and farm home, and gave suggestions on how this could be done.

Other sessions were devoted to talks with questions and answers, covering such matters as Fundamentals of a Safety Program, Procedure for a Safety and Job Training Program, Insurance, Priorities on Safety Equipment, Technical Standards, Design and Construction, Importance of Grounds, Operation Memoranda, Development of a Safety Program, various procedures and activities of individual State programs and information about safety to the Press and Public. Considerable discussion centered around material made available by Iowa State College, the National Park Service, Fortune Magazine, Coronet Magazine, U. S. Fidelity and Guaranty Company, Copper Wire Engineering Association, and the Kentucky Safety and Job Training Committee.

The conference was closed with the address of Administrator Slattery. Cooperative spirit, Mr. Slattery said, made the REA what it is. It would do bigger things in the future, he said, and added that the safety program, like all other objectives of the REA, will not be achieved without it. "Ways and means must be found," he asserted, "to expand the Safety and Job Training Program."

Intense interest marked every session. Much of the discussion

related to coordinating the activities of the individual State programs. Problems were presented from both the points of view of the supervisors and the REA.

The Den Room of the hotel where the conference was held was hung with posters and exhibits bearing on accidents and the necessity to reduce them to conserve manpower for the war.

Two superintendents, two line foremen and a former co-op lineman attended from Iowa. One line foreman came from Idaho. The Kentucky committee was represented by its chairman, and secretary-treasurer, and the Oklahoma committee was represented by a member of the State Board for Vocational Education.

Social activities of the conference were limited to a quick trip to the famous St. Louis Zoo, and a home-cooked baked bean supper at the home of Bill Rushlow.

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R. D. Palmer, Superintendent of Iowa 53 Linn, generously volunteered to print this supplement to "The REA Lineman." Mr. Palmer also did much to help the Committee frame the resolutions.

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Ed Nauert, Texas Supervisor, said next time he comes to a Supervisors' Conference he will check his bag in the hotel lobby. He said he was so busy he didn't have time to sleep in the room he paid for.

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**PLAN TO ATTEND THE
NEXT CONFERENCE!**

Sincere hope that REA Administrator Harry Slattery will find a way to continue the Safety and Job Training Conferences and to extend an invitation to each supervisor, project manager or superintendent and line foreman who may be able to attend is expressed in a resolution adopted at the conference and ordered presented to the Administrator through the REA Safety Unit.

The resolutions, drawn up by a committee consisting of B. F. Snively, R. D. Palmer and E. F. Nauert, makes several suggestions, as follows:

1. That pole steps be permitted to be used on all poles having sectionalizing switches;
2. That all switches not protected by a locked or supervised enclosed area be locked in the closed position, except when men are working in the immediate vicinity of such switches;
3. That all field safety supervisors be furnished with a complete library of operating memoranda and current revisions and also a set of revised and indexed construction standards;
4. That a standard procedure be formulated on the opening and closing of circuits;
5. That all poles be kept clear so that there be no interference with ascent or descent of linemen.

The policy of wearing rubber gloves from "the ground up", as contained in Operations Memorandum #22.3, paragraph 7, was endorsed.

"Each man who has been at the conference will return to his job with a little more knowledge, a little better understanding of the broader phases of the all-important safety program," the resolutions state, and the Administrator and D. A.

Fleming are commended for the vision and effort in the promotion of the safety program. W. E. Rushlow is especially praised for the "democratic spirit which (he) fostered" the conference.

Appreciation also is expressed for "The REA Lineman" and its importance to the development of the safety program coupled with a hope that a sufficient number of copies will be printed so that each project manager or superintendent, lineman and board member can receive a copy. In recognition of the needs of the times, offer is contained to assist with the Farm and Home Safe Program, Red Cross First Aid Instruction Courses or with the work of any other war agency where training and experience such as these delegates have would be of value.

The resolutions also pledged loyal support to the development of the safety program, the national war effort, and other preservation of the democratic way of life.

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J. B. Gram, line foreman from Idaho 10, was the state booster. We won't forget Idaho! The hotel manager afraid next year J. B. will bring Josephine. (That's his pet bear!)

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Fred White, Mississippi Supervisor, remarked he has never been with a group of men who were more friendly and more earnest in their desire to meet on common ground and discuss common problems.

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**SAVE MANPOWER
FOR WAR POWER!**